

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059902

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO JIDDA AADDISABABA MARCH 30

FRTM SANAAREPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE:

S E C R E T SANAA 510

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YE, SA, PFOR, MOPS, MCAP

SUBJECT: PRIMIN REQUESTS URGENT MILITARY ASSISTANCE

SUMMARY. PRIMIN HAJIR CALLED ME IN MARCH 29 TO INFORM ME OF REPORTS
OF PDRY MASSING ON BORDER AND YARG JUDGEMENT THAT PDRY PREPARING
FOR

ARMED ATTACK. HE ASKED THAT USG MILITARY HELP, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, BE
SPEEDED UP. I REFERRED TO OUR COOPERATION WITH SAG IN ITS CURRENT
STUDY

OF YAR' S MILITARY NEEDS AND PROMISED TO CONVEY HIS REQUEST TO DEPT
ON

URGENT BASIS. AT MY REQUEST HAJRI PROMISED THAT SENIOR YARG MILITARY
OFFICER WILL GIVE US DETAILED BRIEFING MARCH 31 AND I WILL OBTAIN
REACTION OF SAG EMBASSY HERE. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM
HAJRI' S

FEARS AS YET.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 059902

1. I CALLED ON PRIMIN HAJRI AT HIS REQUEST EVENING MARCH 29. HAJRI HAD NOT TAKEN UP AMBASSADOR'S OFFER, WHEN MEETING REQUESTED MARCH 28, TO MEET SAME DAY IF MATTER URGENT, BUT INDICATED HE AGREEABLE TO SEE-ING ME NEXT DAY. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY YEMEN COUNTRY OFFICER BUCK.

2. IMPORT OF PRIMIN'S PRESENTATION, HOWEVER, BELIED APPARENT NON-URGENCY OF REQUEST FOR MEETING. HAJRI IMMEDIATELY LAUNCHED INTO SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE YARG POSSESSED OF PDRY TROOP (REGULAR ARMY AND MILITIA) MASSINGS ALONG ENTIRE LENGTH OF BORDER FROM BAB AL- MANDEB THROUGH QATABA AND BAYDA TO HARIB AND OF CIVILIAN WITHDRAWALS FROM BORDER AREAS. HAJRI ALLEGED RUSSIAN PRESENCE ON PRIM INCREASING DAILY AND PDRY FORCES THERE RECEIVING EQUIPMENT BY CONTINUAL ARRIVAL OF DHOWS, PLUS OCCASIONAL LARGE SHIPS. PRIMIN ALSO OUTLINED SOME ELEMENTS OF RECENT SOVIET ARMS BUILD- UP TO PDRY, SUCH AS 100 TANKS, ABOUT 100 PILOTS (22 CUBAN, 70 RUSSIAN) 1000 TRUCKS, PLUS UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF TANKS AND AIRCRAFT.

3. ACCORDING HAJRI, YARG HAS DRAWN CONCLUSION THAT PDRY INTENDS TO INVADE YAR, PERHAPS WITHIN WEEK. YARG HAS ALREADY NOTED INCREASE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN SE OF COUNTRY, PLUS SMUGGLING OF ARMS AND TRAINING

OF CADRES IN EAST AND EVEN IN NORTHERN AREA OF HASHID TRIBES. ONE PDRY UNITY SUB- COMMITTEE HAS ABRUPTLY LEFT SANAA AND ANOTHER IS STALLING ITS SCHEDULED ARRIVAL. YARG REASONS THAT PDRY AND ITS SOVIET

ADVISORS HAVE LEARNED OF SAUDIA AND AMERICAN AGREEMENT TO ASSIST YARG MILITARILY AND HAVE DECIDED TO STRIKE WHILE YAR STILL HELPLESS TO RESIST. IN THIS REGARD HAJRI COMMENTED THAT CIC COL. MUHAMMAD IRYANI HAD JUST RETURNED FROM INSPECTION TOUR OF UNITS IN SOUTHERN HALF OF COUNTRY WITH REPORT THAT AREA DEFENSELESS. TROOPS HAVE NO FUNCTIONING WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, SPARE PARTS, OR VEHICLES. (MOREOVER, HAJRI SAID HE TOLD SAME DAY BY ARRIVING SUPREME SOVIET DELA-

GATION THAT SOVIET AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY ARMS, AMMUNITION, AND SPARE PARTS TO YARG WAS CONCLUDED IN WAR SITUATION. NOW THAT TWO YEMENS UNITED, IT NO LONGER VALID.)

4. HAJRI CHARACTERIZED SITUATION AS GRAVE AND EXPRESSED HOPE USG WOULD RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF COMING QUICKLY TO YAJG'S ASSISTANCE WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT. IT DID NOT MATTER WHETHER AID WAS DIRECT OR INDIRECT THROUGH SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER FRIENDS IN AREA.

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PAGE 03 STATE 059902

5. I RESPONDED THAT INVASION BY PDRY WOULD INDEED BE GRAVE MATTER. HAD HE COMMUNICATED THIS JUDGEMENT OF SITUATION TO SAUDIS? (HAJRI RESPONDED HE HAD RECENTLY DONE SO.) WE KNEW THAT SAG WAS STUDYING YARGS

MILITARY NEEDS ON URGENT BASIS AND WAS PLANNING TO DISPATCH A SENIOR GENERAL TO SANAA. (ACCORDING TO HAJRI, HE HAS BEEN DELAYED BY RECENT INTERRUPTION SAUDIA AIR SERVICE TO YEMEN.) AS PRIMIN AWARE, USG WILLING TO ASSIST MILITARILY BUT FEELS IT NOT IN YARG' S INTEREST THAT USG BECOME INVOLVED DIRECTLY AND OPENLY.

6. OUR JUDGEMENT HAD BEEN THAT PDRY INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING FACADE OF UNITY TALKS WHILE CONDUCTING CLANDESTINE CAMPAIGN OF SUBVERSION, ASSASSINATION AND TERRORISM INSIDE YAR AND COULD PROBABLY NOT RESORT TO OPEN ATTACK. WE CONSIDERED THAT PDRY FELT IT IMPORTANT TO PAY SOME

ATTENTION TO ARAB OPINION, PARTICULARLY ARAB LEAGUE AND LIBYA. MOREOVER

POLICY OF UNDERMINING YARG BY CLANDESTINE ACTIVITY SEEMED MORE SUITED TO ITS RESOURCES AND STYLE. PRIMIN' S PRESENTATION WOULD HOWEVER NECESSITATE REAPPRAISAL OF THIS JUDGEMENT AND I PROMISED TO CONVEY IT URGENTLY TO DEPT WHERE IT WOULD RECEIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. IN THIS REGARD IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IF SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER COULD GIVE US DETAILED BRIEFING SOONEST ON PDRY MILITARY FORCES AND ON

THESE MASSINGS ALONG BORDER. HAJRI PROMISED THAT HE WOULD ARRANGE BRIEFING BY CIC IRYANI OR COS MASWARI MARCH 31.

7. COMMENT. HAJRI DELIVERED PRESENTATION WITH GRANDFATHERLY ELOQUENCE

AND FORCEFULNESS BUT WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF AGITATION. HIS CALMNESS AND APPARENT NON- URGENCY O
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